

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07999 211023Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 SAM-01 AF-04 IO-10 CU-02

NIC-01 SAJ-01 /081 W

----- 004407

R 210800Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 721

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL BILBAO

AMCONSUL SEVILLE

AMCONSUL BARCELONA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PFOR

SUBJ: CARRERO ASSASSINATION COMMEMORATIVE

ACTIVITIES: SITUATION IN BASQUE COUNTRY

REF: MADRID 7851

BEGIN SUMMARY. ANNIVERSARY CARRERO ASSASSINATION  
TODAY PASSED WITH A FEW COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES AND NO  
MAJOR INCIDENTS. SITUATION IN BASQUE COUNTRY, HOWEVER,  
REPORTEDLY REMAINS TENSE, PARTICULARLY IN WAKE  
DEC 11 RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL GENERAL STRIKE ATTEMPT  
IN THAT ZONE AND KILLING AND WOUNDING THIS WEEK OF  
POLICE AND GUARDIA CIVIL IN THAT AREA DURING LAST  
FEW DAYS BY PRESUMED ETA TERRORISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF DEC 20, 1973 ASSASSINATION  
OF PRIME MINISTER CARRERO BLANCO, PASSED TODAY WITH NO  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 07999 211023Z

MAJOR INCIDENTS, AMID SOMEWHAT INCREASED SECURITY

PRECAUTIONS. COMMEMORATIVE ACTS INCLUDED  
A CEREMONY AT SPOT WHERE CARRERO BLANCO WAS KILLED  
AT WHICH MAYOR OF MADRID UNVEILED A PLAQUE IN FRONT  
OF A SMALL LARGELY RIGHT WING CROWD; A MUCH MORE  
IMPORTANT MEMORIAL MASS WHICH TOOK PLACE AT A CENTRAL  
MADRID CHURCH AND WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY PRINCE JUAN  
CARLOS, PRINCESS SOFIA, PRIME MINISTER ARIAS, AND  
FRANCO'S WIFE, DONA CARMEN (ALTHOUGH FRANCO HIMSELF  
DID NOT ATTEND); AND A BRIEF CEREMONY AT THE PARDO  
PALACE CEMETERY WHERE CARRERO IS BURIED. ONLY  
UNPLEASANTNESS WAS CAUSED BY SOME OF RIGHT WING  
PALANGISTS WHO ATTENDED PLAQUE UNVEILING, WHO LATER  
REPORTEDLY SHOUTED ANTI-FRENCH SLOGANS OUTSIDE  
FRENCH EMBASSY AND SHOUTED SLOGANS AGAINST PREMIER  
ARIAS AND CARDINAL TARANCON OUTSIDE CHURCH WHERE MEMORIAL  
MASS WAS HELD.

2. DESPITE RELATIVE CALM TODAY, TENSION IN BASQUE  
COUNTRY, WHICH HAS BEEN BUILDING UP IN RECENT  
WEEKS, ACCORDING TO CONSULATE BILBAO REMAINS  
HIGH.

3. REPORTS CONTINUE TO INDICATE THAT GENERAL  
STRIKE ATTEMPT IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY ON DEC. 11 (SEE  
REF) DESIGNED TO COMMEMORATE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
1970 BURGOS TRIAL, WAS FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL. THAT  
STRIKE DIFFERED FROM PREVIOUS STRIKE ACTIVITY IN THAT  
AREA THIS FALL, IN THAT IT WAS STRICTLY POLITICAL  
IN NATURE, AND HAD COOPERATION MOST CLANDESTINE  
LABOR GROUPS IN AREA. BASQUE TERRORIST ETA ALSO  
CAME OUT IN SUPPORT OF STRIKE.

4. ALTHOUGH STRIKES AND LABOR CONFLICTS IN THE  
BASQUE AREA HAVE SINCE SUBSIDED CONSIDERABLY,  
THIS WEEK HAS WITNESSED SEVERAL DRAMATIC ACTS OF  
TERRORISM IN ZONE. ON DEC 17 TWO POLICEMEN IN BASQUE  
TOWN OF MONDRAGON WERE MACHINE-GUNNED TO DEATH ON  
STREET BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS WHO FIRED FROM PASSING CAR.  
ON DEC 18 TWO CIVIL GUARDS WERE INJURED  
BY MACHINE GUN FIRE IN TOWN OF URDULIX. BOTH  
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PAGE 03 MADRID 07999 211023Z

INCIDENTS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY  
ETA MILITANTS. MEANWHILE PRESS DURING RECENT WEEKS  
HAS REPORTED INCREASING NUMBERS OF ARRESTS OF  
SUSPECTED ETA MEMBERS IN BASQUE PROVINCES.

5. COMMENT: WHILE TODAY'S ANNIVERSARY HAS  
APPARENTLY TRANSPIRED WITHOUT MAJOR INCIDENTS IN  
MADRID OR ELSEWHERE, THE CLIMATE IN BASQUE

COUNTRY OF TENSION (RESULTING FROM POLITICIZATION AND  
TERRORIST ACTS FOLLOWED BY POLICE REPRISALS AND  
ARRRESTS) APPEARS TO BE STEADILY GROWING AND,  
SHOULD IT CONTINUE, COULD FURTHER EXCERATE THE  
POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS ALREADY  
PLAGUING THIS MOST VOLATILE REGION.  
EATON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LABOR STRIKES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 DEC 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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